

Winchester Operatic Society presents

# BILLY

A MUSICAL BASED ON BILLY LIAR



14th - 18th May 2013

Theatre Royal, Winchester



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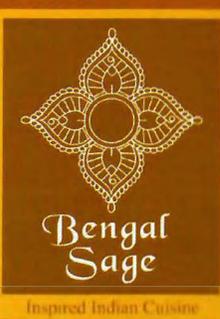


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Winchester Operatic Society  
presents

# BILLY

A MUSICAL BASED ON BILLY LIAR



Director/Choreographer: Suzanne Hall  
Musical Director: Martin Paterson

BILLY - a musical based on the novel 'Billy Liar' by KEITH WATERHOUSE and WILLIS HALL.  
Music by JOHN BARRY. Lyrics by DON BLACK. Book by DICK CLEMENT and IAN LA FREN AIS.  
This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Josef Weinberger Ltd.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to *Billy* - the musical based on the classic novel, *Billy Liar* - the second production in our Centenary year. I don't think we could have chosen a greater contrast to *The Merry Widow* which was our first Centenary show!

This is the first time we have staged anything like this and we have been pleased with the response from our acting company and the enthusiasm they have shown for this work.

The story centres around one day in the life of Billy Fisher, an undertaker's assistant, who day-dreams his life away in the hope that he can escape his dull middle-class life in 1960s Yorkshire.

*Billy* opened at the Palace Theatre in Manchester before moving to the Theatre Royal Drury Lane on 1st May 1974. The show starred Michael Crawford where it ran for 904 performances - and launched Crawford's career in musical theatre. Also in the cast was a young Elaine Paige as Rita.

All this excitement is in the very capable hands of our Director Suzanne Hall. Suzanne is a multi-talented theatrical whizz who directs, is an award winning performer, choreographer and set designer. The Society is very lucky to have such talent at its disposal. We are pleased to welcome back as MD, Martin Paterson, who last worked with us on *The Sorcerer* in 2008 and *42nd Street* in 2010. Martin always brings great energy and enthusiasm to our productions.

This year in particular I would like to thank our set design and construction team who have worked long and hard in a unheated barn to produce a multifaceted set which we hope will further enhance the show. A large number of members work hard behind the scenes to make these shows possible and without their efforts we would be unable to stage the range of work that we do. If you would like to be more involved with us please contact our Secretary (details in this programme).

Our grateful thanks as always to Mark Courtice and the staff of Theatre Royal Winchester who are always so helpful and make our short time with them such a pleasure. We hope you will enjoy this exciting trip into a bright and colourful fantasy land!

*Brian Hurst*

**Honorary Vice Presidents and Life Members** - Fred Allgood, Valerie Bell, Margaret Bone, Geoffrey Burnaby, Jo Burnaby, Eileen Evans, Brian Hurst, Bob Jones, Pamela Jones, The Mayor of Winchester, Pamela Peskett, James Sabben-Clare, Richard Steel, Christine Walters, David Weait, Michael Williams.

**Council of Management 2012-13** - Brian Hurst (President), Martin Larcombe (Company Secretary), Richard Steel, Anne Croudass, Mary Twomey, Adrian Hickford.

**Executive Committee 2012-13** - Mary Twomey (Chairman), Adrian Hickford (Vice-Chairman and Hon. Treasurer), Heather Reid (Hon. Secretary), Alison Bradley, Stephen Gleed, Suzanne Hall, Katie Hickson, Anne McDonald, Gill Russell, Lucy Whiteman.

**WOS Friends** - Tim Ames, Janet Bird, Richard and Maureen Chisnell, Valerie Cork, Barrie Dey, Elizabeth Duff, Alice Dyson, Muriel Fisher, John Gibson, Jean Hilton, Austen and Connie Hooker, Irene Johnston, Ann Lake, Barry Lipscomb, Rupert Marks, John Murray, Jack O'Grady, Christine Pilgrim, Brenda Pomeroy, Lady Jane Portal, Barry and Janet Richardson, Joyce Sadd, Carole Steel, Peter Steggall, Tim Stevens, Di Threlfall, Paul Tipple, David Weait, Barbara Welch, Margaret Williams, Angela Winteridge.



## Winchester Operatic Society 100 years of music

The first recorded minutes of the Society were in November 1912 and our first production *The Pirates of Penzance* in 1913. Apart from the war years we have been entertaining the people of Winchester almost non-stop for 100 years. Our most famous musical director Sir Malcolm Sargent worked with us for ten years and we have been lucky to have had some of the best Directors and Musical Directors ever since - not least of which, Derek Beck, who recently retired from the role.

As the celebrations of our centenary year draw to a close I would like to reflect on the many and varied events that we organised to mark the occasion during 2012 and 2013 and to say a big thank you to Anne McDonald and all members of the Centenary Committee who helped to make the events so special. From the wonderful centenary lunch in July last year, the sing-along *Pirates* and inter-society quiz and centenary Carol Service, all these events were well attended by old friends and new - great moments to share memories, stories and anecdotes. Our final event in the centenary calendar will be a glorious Garden Party in June this year - Sunday 30th June - 2pm to 6pm at Sparsholt. All are welcome at this fun family event.



It has been an honour to have been Chairman of WOS during this very special celebratory year - I have met and spoken to many members who performed with us over the years and who continue to support us. Thank you to all.

Here's to another 100 years: 'Ad Perfectionem Aspirantes' - (Ever striving for perfection)

*Mary Twomey, Chairman*

## WOS Centenary Garden Party

Sunday 30th June 2013, 2pm - 6pm, Sparsholt College

A lovely 'high tea' with the usual dainty sandwiches, scones and cakes. We will also provide (weather permitting) an afternoon of gentle garden games, a tombola, raffle, entertainment and our friendly sing-along which was so popular at our lunch last year. In fact fun for all ages and, even if the sun does not shine, we will still be able to have our celebration indoors. Tea, coffee and soft drinks will be provided and a glass of bubbly to toast our future...a cash bar will also be available.

Tickets £15 adults - £5 children under 12  
Apply to [chairman@winchester-operatic.org.uk](mailto:chairman@winchester-operatic.org.uk)



## SYNOPSIS

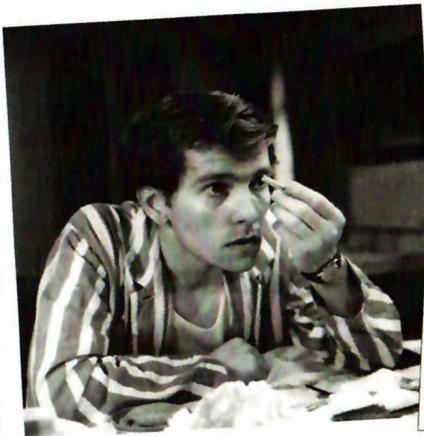
Less than dedicated to his job as an undertaker's clerk with the firm of Shadrack and Duxbury, bored with his middle-class Yorkshire family background, Billy Fisher takes refuge in his own invented world. For Billy, an energetic imagination makes life tolerable but well-nigh intolerable for all around him. He lies his way into and out of every situation, producing any explanation and making any promise that will extricate him from his present predicament, and thereby creating ever more tortuous entanglements for the immediate future. We accompany him through one momentous day - as he struggles to escape, periodically retreating into his fantasies: ruler of the imaginary kingdom of Ambrosia, dreams of Hollywood success...

He is engaged to two girls - the exact opposites of each other, while hankering after a third who he decides to run away with - to a new life as a scriptwriter in London. But first he has to extricate himself from his employer (from whom he has been pilfering), his family and the two "fiancées"...

## BILLY LIAR - FIFTY YEARS ON..

Keith Waterhouse's novel was published in 1959, just as the "Angry Young Men" were making their mark. It was soon adapted by Waterhouse and Willis Hall into a West End play, first with Albert Finney in the title role, later Tom Courtenay. It is Courtenay that most remember - first on stage, but memorably in the 1963 film version, directed by John Schlesinger. That film has recently been remastered and re-released this year for the Bradford Film Festival - Bradford being the setting for the fictional Stradhoughton. In the last few weeks, the film has attracted contemporary comment - one reviewer suggested that if written today, Billy would probably harbour a burning ambition to appear on *The X Factor*, but would never quite get round to filling in the form! The character of Liz (played in the film by Julie Christie) symbolised a world on the cusp of change - heralding the sixties world of freedom, romance and escape.

We are delighted to have received a personal message from Sir Tom Courtenay, together with archive photos of himself in the role of Billy Liar at the Cambridge Theatre in London, from 50 years ago.



It's more than 50 years since  
I played in BL at the  
Cambridge Theatre in London.  
It's a wonderful play and  
I hope you get as much  
fun out of it as I did  
With Greg Good Wish for  
a Happy run - T.C.

## THE ACTION TAKES PLACE IN STRADHOUGHTON, YORKSHIRE, ON SATURDAY MARCH 19TH, 1960.

### ACT ONE

Scene One	Ambrosia
Scene Two	The Fisher Household
Scene Three	The Cemetery
Scene Four	Stradhoughton High Street
Scene Five	A Park
Scene Six	The Fisher Household
Scene Seven	Outside the Football Stadium

### Interval

### ACT TWO

Scene One	Outside the Football Stadium
Scene Two	Shadrack & Duxbury's Office
Scene Three	The Fisher Household
Scene Four	Outside The Roxy
Scene Five	Inside The Roxy
Scene Six	A Park
Scene Seven	The Fisher Household
Scene Eight	The Railway Station

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

### ACT ONE

Ambrosia	(chorus)
And	(Alice, Geoffrey, Gran, Billy)
Some of us belong to the stars	(Billy)
Happy to be ourselves	(Billy, Arthur, company)
The Witch's song	(Barbara, Billy)
Lies	(Barbara, Billy)
It were all green hills	(Duxbury, chorus)
Aren't you Billy Fisher	(Billy, company)

### Interval

### Entr'acte

### ACT TWO

My heart is ready when you are	(Liz, Billy)
Billy	(Billy, Liz, Barbara, Rita)
Remembering	(Alice, Geoffrey)
Any minute now	(Barbara, Rita)
The lady from L.A.	(Billy, Arthur, company)
I can make a difference	(Liz, Billy)
Some of us belong to the stars - reprise	(Billy, company)
Billy - reprise	(Liz)
I missed the last rainbow	(Billy)
Ambrosia - reprise	(company)
Finale	(company)

## CAST LIST

Chris Horn	<i>Billy Fisher</i>
Anne McDonald	<i>Alice Fisher (Mum)</i>
Hamish McDonald	<i>Geoffrey Fisher (Dad)</i>
Liz Petley-Jones	<i>Gran</i>
Cressida Bullough	<i>Rita</i>
Lucy Whiteman	<i>Barbara</i>
Katie Hickson	<i>Liz</i>
Dan Hickson	<i>Arthur Crabtree (Billy's best friend)</i>
Peter Barber	<i>Councillor Duxbury</i>
Simon Meanwell-Ralph	<i>Shadrack</i>
Adrian Hickford	<i>Stamp</i>
Gill Russell	<i>Mrs Crabtree (Arthur's mother)</i>
Juliet Surrige	<i>Marilyn Monroe</i>
Stephen Gleed	<i>Band Leader</i>
Colin Paice	<i>Ticket Collector</i>

## ENSEMBLE OF TOWNSFOLK AND AMBROSAINS

David Anderson, Tracey Anderson, Ellie Baker, Jacqui Beckingham, Alison Bradley, Penny Bullough, Deborah Cleary, Colin Crimp, Anne Croudass, Jill Fitzpatrick, Lizzie Gilbert, Stephen Gleed, Talia Hedström, Louise Hodson, Lisa Kennedy, Graham Light, Sally Male, Alan Matheson, Vanessa Matthews, Nicky Moore, Colin Paice, Mike Palette, Heather Reid, Gill Russell, Claire Smith, Juliet Surrige, Mary Twomey, Michael Watson.

## THE AMBROSIAN STATE OPERA ORCHESTRA

Keyboard/conductor	<i>Martin Paterson</i>
Flute/piccolo	<i>David Anderson</i>
Oboe/cor anglais	<i>Barry Collisson</i>
Clarinet/alto sax/tenor sax	<i>Ann Clausen</i>
Clarinet/tenor sax	<i>Paul Stiles</i>
Trumpet	<i>Sue Williams</i>
Cornet/flugel horn	<i>Wayne Landen</i>
Horn	<i>Holly Ferneaux, David Woodgates</i>
Trombone	<i>Jamie Payne</i>
Bass trombone	<i>Roger Longcroft</i>
Drums	<i>Paul Lovegrove</i>
Percussion	<i>Joe Manghan</i>
Bass	<i>Sarah King</i>

## CREW

Stage Manager	<i>Angie Barks</i>
Production Manager	<i>Katie Hickson</i>
Music Secretary	<i>Anne Croudass</i>
Set Realisation	<i>Sue Aiken</i>
Set Construction	<i>Sue Aiken David Anderson, David Freemantle, Warner Hall, Brian Hurst, Pamela Jones, Liz Petley-Jones, Ian White</i>
Make-up	<i>Christine Harding, Liz Petley-Jones</i>
Costumes	<i>Katie Hickson</i>
Costume Hire	<i>Anne Ponting – Eclectia Costumes</i>
Props	<i>Trish Feltham with John Feltham, Sylvia Jobling, Simon Meanwell-Ralph</i>
Lighting Design	<i>Rebecca Gregory</i>
Lighting and Technical	<i>Theatre Royal</i>
Sound	<i>Christopher Evans</i>
Backstage	<i>Sue Aiken, Julia Campone, Adrian Davies, Tony Lawther, Mark Scott, Steve Young</i>
Posters and Flyers	<i>Ashley Burr at Copyman</i>
Programme	<i>Liz Petley-Jones and Gill Russell with Ashley Burr at Copyman</i>
Sales and Marketing	<i>Gill Russell, Lucy Whiteman</i>
Front of House	<i>Robert Parsons</i>

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Theatre Royal
- United Church, Jewry Street and Wessex Conference Centre, Sparsholt for rehearsal space
- Richard Steel and Partners for coffin
- Brides of Winchester for gown box
- Milestones, Basingstoke for photoshoot location
- Liz Petley-Jones for publicity and programme photographs
- Peter Sillick for show photographs



Liz  
Katie Hickson



Rita  
Cressida Bullough

Chris Horn  
Billy



Barbara  
Lucy Whiteman



Arthur Crabtree  
Dan Hickson



Councillor Duxbury  
Peter Barber



Marilyn Monroe  
Juliet Surridge



Geoffrey and Alice  
Hamish and Anne McDonald



Gran  
Liz Petley-Jones



Stamp  
Adrian Hickford



Shadrack  
Simon Meanwell-Rolph



Mrs Crabtree  
Gill Russell

Bun  
in  
oven!

# BIOGRAPHIES

## **Peter Barber - Councillor Duxbury**

Having enjoyed a respite from his range of "dodgy accents" for his last WOS appearance as Captain Corcoran in *HMS Pinafore*, Peter now adds Councillor Duxbury's broad Yorkshire! This follows Teyve in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Moonface in *Anything Goes*, Shadbolt in *The Yeomen of the Guard*, Julian Marsh in *42nd Street*, and Alfio the Carter in *Cavalleria Rusticana*. Peter lives in Alton and is a trustee of Theatre Royal Winchester.

## **Cressida Bullough - Rita**

This is Cressida's second show with WOS as an adult, having played the obligatory child in a number of Gilbert and Sullivan operettas a few years ago (ahem). Having watched her Grandad, Father and Mother take centre stage, she is delighted to be following in their footsteps and is thrilled to be playing the part of Rita. Her acting skills are truly being put to the test playing a character 'for whom the word common was invented', although some have commented she slipped into the role rather easily!. Cressida is very much looking forward to performing on the Theatre Royal stage once more.

## **Adrian Hickford - Stamp**

Adrian plays Stamp, who is described in the libretto as an "unpleasant and unattractive youth". Two out of three ain't bad!

## **Dan Hickson - Arthur Crabtree**

"So we are on to the second show of our centenary year and for this I'm playing Arthur Crabtree, 'best mate' to Billy. Billy has three birds on the go (one of which is Mrs H). Arthur, you will notice, doesn't have so much as a male friend with long hair. So you would think that Billy would set him up with one of his wouldn't you? Alas, no. Clearly this friendship is all one-way traffic. I'm not happy".

## **Katie Hickson - Liz**

"In this, the second show in our centenary year, I'm playing the part of Liz, one of the three women Billy appears to be 'committed' to. He really needs to get on and make his mind up. I have to say I'm not overly impressed with the competition and I've heard that he likes the more mature woman, so I'm feeling quietly confident....."

## **Chris Horn - Billy Fisher**

Chris, who works as a land agent for BCM near Sutton Scotney and whose family farm near Droxford, is delighted to be returning to the stage in his second show with WOS, having played Billy in their production of *Anything Goes* in 2011. Chris's latest incarnation as another Billy, is his largest role to date and he is hugely excited at being given the opportunity to play such a diverse and contrasting character, who, despite his best intentions and loveable nature, can't help but live up to the name of Billy Liar.

Amongst others, Chris's previous roles include twice playing Frederick in *The Pirates of Penzance*, Curly in *Oklahoma!*, Lord Evelyn Oakleigh in *Anything Goes*, and Ethan in *The Full Monty* (and yes, he did go all the way)!

Chris would like to thank all of his friends and family for their help and support, especially those making the long trip down to watch the show. But mostly Chris would like to thank Suzanne, Martin, and the cast and crew for their endless support and banter, especially during rehearsal wardrobe malfunctions! It has been a real team effort and a joy to be a part of.

## **Anne and Hamish McDonald - Alice and Geoffrey Fisher**

Anne and Hamish have been performing on the stage longer than they care to remember. They have performed many principal roles in a wide variety of productions from pantomime to opera but it is many years since they have actually played opposite one another on stage. In real life, they have been together for over 28 years so playing husband and wife in this production just comes naturally. Being born and bred 'up north' was also another natural advantage when it comes to talking like Alice and Geoffrey with a Yorkshire accent. They admit, however, that recently, much of their time together in bed has been spent learning and saying their lines to each other! Sorry to disappoint!

## **Simon Meanwell-Ralph - Shadrack**

Simon is not used to playing the 'baddie' but has thrown himself into this part with gusto! He started treading the boards when he was 12 years old at Chichester Festival Theatre in *Goodbye Mr Chips* with Sir John Mills and hasn't looked back since. This is his fourth production with WOS since moving to Winchester a few years ago and he has thoroughly enjoyed each show he's been in. Simon is a self-employed Millinery Designer, working for his own company - Marvellous Millinery.

## **Liz Petley-Jones - Gran**

With ingénue and soubrette roles far behind her, Liz finally declines into senility and slippers with the role of Billy's dotty old Gran. Hey ho!

## **Gill Russell - Mrs Crabtree**

Usually found lurking in the midst of the alto chorus, Gill is released briefly to appear as Arthur's Mum - the target of one of Billy's more inventive fibs....

## **Juliet Surridge - Marilyn Monroe**

This is Juliet's fifth venture with WOS - one of the company's dancing ladies. She is relishing the role of Marilyn Monroe, having played Chastity in *Anything Goes*, Diane in *42nd Street*, and one of the saucy Clones in *HMS Pinafore*. It is a very good thing she is not afraid of heights.. much.....

## **Lucy Whiteman - Barbara**

"Treading the boards for the fourth time with WOS I have played parts ranging from Teyve's daughter in *Fiddler on the Roof*, to an intergalactical space traveller in *HMS Pinafore*. Now I have the honour of playing a character who is described as large and sexless and persistently eats oranges. Well at least my Vitamin C intake has improved!"

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Or join us?

Contact WOS Secretary: Heather Reid -  
email: secretary@winchester-operatic.org.uk

### Suzanne Hall - Director and Choreographer

Suzanne has been a member of WOS since 2003 when she played Miss Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls*. Since then she has been Director (*The Pajama Game*, *HMS Pinafore*); Choreographer (*Oklahoma!*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *The Pajama Game*, *The Merry Widow* and several G&S shows) and performer (*Ado Annie Oklahoma!*, *Erma Anything Goes*, *Maggie 42nd Street*). She is also a director and performer with West Meon Theatre where credits include *Helena A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Viola and Maria Twelfth Night*, *Ensemble Cider with Rosie* and the Landlady in the award winning *Two*. For WMT she has directed *Salad Days*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Stepping out* and *Kipps*. In September Suzanne can be seen baring all in *Calendar Girls* with WMT at the Theatre Royal.



### Martin Paterson - Musical Director

Martin is glad to be asked back as Musical Director with this fantastic group. Previously with WOS he was MD for *The Sorcerer* and *42nd Street*. He can regularly be seen musically directing with other companies in the local area including Southampton Operatic Society, Romsey Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society and Footlights Youth Theatre – for which he is MD of their next production: *The Sound of Music* at the Nuffield Theatre, Southampton in June. Never afraid of a busy schedule, Martin also creates reduced orchestral arrangements for the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas in between looking after his wife and two sons - the latest of whom is three weeks old!



WestMeon Theatre

# Calendar Girls

By Tim Firth

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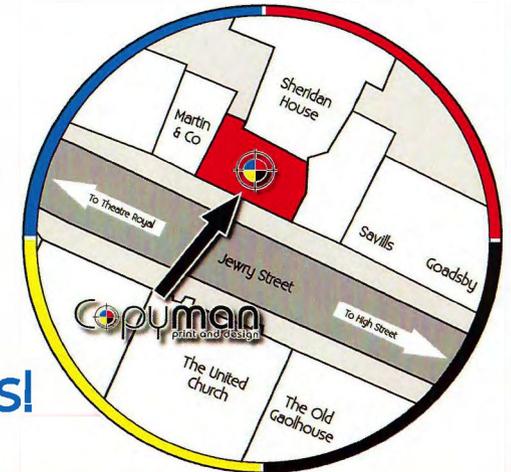
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# Winchester Operatic Society 100 years of music

## Do you Remember?

The collage features several historical posters from the Winchester Operatic Society:

- OPHELIA IN THE UNDERWORLD**: A poster for a production featuring a figure in a white dress and crown.
- OKLAHOMA!**: A poster for the musical Oklahoma! showing a man and a woman in period costume.
- THE PAJAMA GAME**: A poster for the musical The Pajama Game showing a man and a woman in a red dress.
- MY FAIR LADY**: A poster for the musical My Fair Lady showing a woman in a white dress and hat.
- CONCERT OF VOCAL SELECTIONS FROM CELEBRATED OPERAS**: A poster for a concert held at New Hall Winchester, featuring two women in white dresses.
- PROGRAMME**: A poster for a programme featuring two women in period costume.
- CALAMITY JANE**: A poster for the musical Calamity Jane showing a woman in a red dress.
- THE SORCERER**: A poster for the musical The Sorcerer showing a man in a top hat and a woman in a white dress.

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# Home START

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for families

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**Thank you for your support**

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tel: 01962 893604 email: [info@home-startwinchester.org.uk](mailto:info@home-startwinchester.org.uk)

[www.home-startwinchester.org.uk](http://www.home-startwinchester.org.uk)

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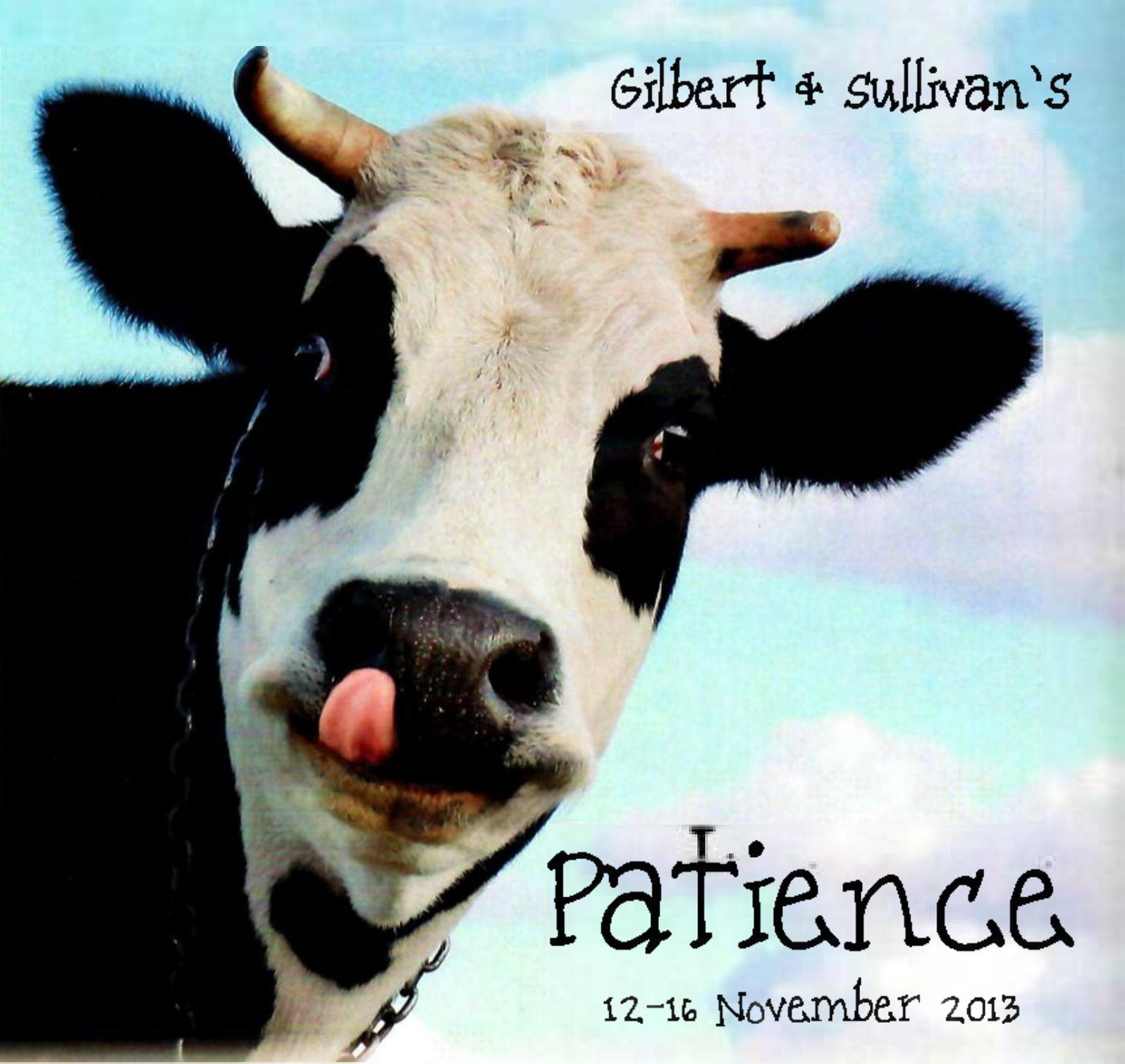
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# Patience

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Further details: Katie Hickson, Production Manager  
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